

LCIDN70ComPasquotank
County Landfill

County of Pasquotank

This document goes w/letter dated April 14th, 1997 addressed
to Mr. Boyette

Phil
DEHNR FYI

Solid Waste Section

We are pleased to send you the enclosed material. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your interest in protecting the environment.

Corrected Report

After getting my April 21 letter, Mike changed his Report: the date is the same but this Report includes why they feel the fire started!

Chuck

Division of Solid Waste Management
Solid Waste Section
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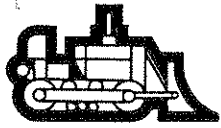
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Compliance Document

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Pasquotank
Co.
**RECYCLE
PASQUOTANK
STYLE**



MICHAEL ETHERIDGE
SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR



COUNTY OF PASQUOTANK

Solid Waste Department
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April 14, 1997

Chuck Boyette
Waste Management Specialist
Solid Waste Section
943 Washington Square Mall
Washington, NC 27889

Dear Mr. Boyette:

On Tuesday, March 25, 1997 around 5:30 pm an operator at the landfill noticed smoke in the LCID area. The operator contacted Horace Williams the Recycling Attendant on duty. The Recycling Attendant then notified by phone Graham Overton, crew leader who immediately responded to the scene around 6:00 pm and found an open fire blazing on the LCID area. (About 2 thousand tons of material was stockpiled in this area mostly debris from past storms). 911 was called and Michael Etheridge, Solid Waste Director was also contacted. Upon arrival on the scene I (Michael Etheridge) observed the fire blazing and spreading on the dry grass on top of the old closed out landfill. The fire departments first priority was to gain control by preventing it from spreading further. Once this was accomplished the fire was then contained within the LCID area.

At this point we assessed the situation and determined we were faced with a fire that was burning so hot the only alternative was to let it burn down. When water was dumped on the pile by the time it reached the fire it was steam. Due to the heat we were unable to get a piece of equipment in to break material apart.

The fire chief and myself decided to let the fire burn and with the help of the sheriff department monitored around the clock. The fire department extinguished the open burning areas of the LCID area daily.

The only way to successfully extinguish the fire was to break it apart little by little to get water to the entire pile. After meeting with the fire chief, in his professional opinion he estimated it would take 1 million gallons of water to completely extinguish the fire. Our concerns then were dealing with the runoff water. We used the ditch, which runs parallel to the closed out landfill and drains to the settling pond to contain this runoff water. Each end of the ditch was blocked to contain the water within the ditch. A Berm was built around the pile to ensure the runoff water would drain into the ditch.

Monitoring wells near the area were covered in plastic in an effort to help prevent them from being contaminated.

Saturday was spent building berm and preparing the ditch for the runoff water. Sunday and Monday the pile was torn apart and the fire was successfully and completely extinguished.

There was smoke lingering from day one until the fire was completely extinguished, which we had no control over. There was only one complaint regarding smoke out of 30 nearby residents. This complaint was made by Audrey Stanford who lived near the landfill. There were 30 other residents who lived near the landfill who didn't complain.

Plan of action for leftover material:

We plan to use a dozer with a root rake in order to remove as much dirt as possible from the debris and re-pile the leftover material. Once it is piled, we will have a company to grind the material. The mulched material will be used as underpayment for the trails in the educational forest located at the Pasquotank County Landfill.

Reason for Fire Type of Material: Due to the type of material and the height of the material that was being stored we feel the fire was started through spontaneous combustion.

Further Plan for Future LCID Material:

We plan to utilize the same areas to stockpile new LCID material with the following provisions:

1. Material will be stockpiled with a rootrate instead of a blade in order to reduce the amount of soil within the pile.
2. The LCID storage are will not exceed 10 feet in height.
3. Once material reaches 1 3/4 acres in size we will have material ground into mulch.
4. We plan to put in a dry hydrant near the LCID area to ensure an unlimited water supply in case of an emergency.
5. We plan to screen materials being dumped into this facility more strengity.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Etheridge
Solid Waste Director